

REMARKS

Claims 1-83 are pending in this application before entry of this Amendment. By this Amendment, claims 1-25, 30-39, and 41-79 are cancelled, claims 26, 40, and 80 are amended. After entry of this Amendment claims 26-29, 40, and 80-83 are pending.

Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This Amendment has cancels claims 20-21, and therefore this rejection is moot.

Claims 1-7, 23-25, 30-37, 52-56, and 77-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,994) in view of Rockland (U.S. Pat. No. 4,010,758) and Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,716,392). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with this rejection, or concede the correctness thereof, this Amendment cancels claims 1-7, 23-25, 30-37, 52-56, and 77-79, and therefore this rejection is moot.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 20, 23, 25, 30-39, 52-60, 62-64, and 77-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,994) in view of Dutcher (U.S. Pat. No. 4,357,946) and Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,716,392). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with this rejection, or concede the correctness thereof, this Amendment cancels claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 20, 23, 25, 30-39, 52-60, 62-64, and 77-79, and therefore this rejection is moot.

Claims 6, 24, 54, 61, and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,994) in view of Dutcher (U.S. Pat. No. 4,357,946) and Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,716,392) as applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 20, 23, 25, 30-39, 52, 53, 55-60, 62-64, and 77-79 above and further in view of Rockland (U.S. Pat. No. 4,010,758). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with this rejection, or concede the correctness thereof, this Amendment cancels claims 6, 24, 54, 61, and 78, and therefore this rejection is moot.

Claims 1, 12-22, 23-25, 30-31, 41-51, 52-56, and 67-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,994) in view of Stokes (U.S. Pat. No. 4,313,448) and Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,716,392). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with this rejection, or concede the correctness thereof, this Amendment cancels claims 1, 12-22, 23-25, 30-31, 41-51, 52-56, and 67-79, and therefore this rejection is moot.

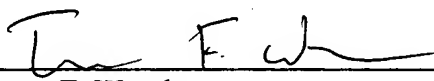
Claims 10, 11, 56, 57, 65, and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,994) in view of Dutcher (U.S. Pat. No. 4,357,946) and Bourgeois (U.S. Pat. No. 5,716,392). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with this rejection, or concede the correctness thereof, this Amendment cancels claims 10, 11, 56, 57, 65, and 66, and therefore this rejection is moot.

Applicants note that the Examiner stated at page 9, paragraph 9 that claims 26-29, 40, and 80-83 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter and has made claims 26, 40, and 80 independent claims containing all of the elements present in underlying claims, claims 1, 31, and 56 respectively.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and notice of the same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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